

REMARKS

This Application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action mailed on October 4, 2006 ("the Office Action"), and Applicants hereby respond to the Notice of Non-Compliant Amendment mailed December 28, 2006. As requested in the Notice of Non-Compliant Amendment, the correction in the specification has been properly submitted in paragraph form. Claims 1-4, 7-18, 20-30, 32-35, 38-41, 43 and 44 are pending in the Application. Claims 17, 18, 20-30, 32-35, 38-41, 43 and 44 are rejected in this Office Action. Claims 1-4 and 7-16 are objected to. Claims 1, 17, 25-27, 30, 35, 38, 43, and 44 have been amended. Claims 18, 21, and 22 have been cancelled. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and favorable action in this case.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants appreciate the allowance of Claims 1-4 and 7-16.

Objections to the Specification

The Office Action objected to the Specification due to a typographical error. Applicants have amended the Specification to address this objection. Favorable action is requested.

Claim Objections

Applicants are advised that should Claim 20 be found allowable, Claim 22 will be objected to under 37 CFR § 1.75 as being a substantial duplicate thereof. Applicants have cancelled Claim 22 accordingly.

The Office Action objects to Claims 1, 35, and 44 because of informalities. Applicants have amended Claims 1, 35, and 44 to address these informalities. Favorable action is requested.

Section 102 and 103 Rejections

Claims 17, 18, 20-30, 32-35, 38, 39, 41, 43, and 44 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,532,215 to Muntz, et al. ("*Muntz*"). Claim 40 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Muntz* in view of U. S.

Patent No. 6,909,781 to Itri (“*Itri*”). Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections for the reasons described below.

Claim 17 is allowable at least because the cited references do not teach or suggest “terminating the combined channel with a termination circuit, the termination circuit having an impedance and comprising one or more resistors and one or more capacitors.” The Office Action contends that Column 9, lines 53-61 of *Muntz* discloses these limitations. Specifically, the Office Action alleges that network 12 and network line 58 of *Muntz* anticipate the claimed termination circuit. *See Office Action*, page 4. The Office Action is incorrect. Rather than terminating a combined channel in order to self-test a device, *Muntz* is directed toward detecting fault conditions on a network line attached to the device. *See Muntz*, column 2, lines 35-45. The portion of *Muntz* relied upon by the Office Action discloses receiving echo signals as a test signal propagates through a network line, but clearly the network and the network line of *Muntz* are not a termination circuit “having an impedance and comprising one or more resistors and one or more capacitors” as recited in amended Claim 17.

For at least these reasons, Claim 17 is allowable as are all the claims depending therefrom. In addition, Claims 30, 35, 43, and 44 are each allowable for analogous reasons, as are the claims depending therefrom. Favorable action is requested.

CONCLUSION

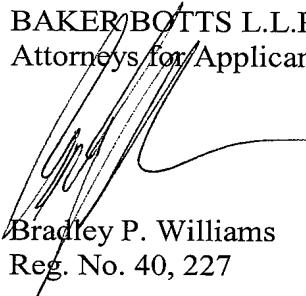
Applicants have now made an earnest attempt to place this case in condition for immediate allowance. For the foregoing reasons and for other apparent reasons, Applicants respectfully request full allowance of all pending Claims.

If the Examiner feels that a telephone conference or an interview would advance prosecution of this Application in any manner, please feel free to contact the undersigned attorney for Applicants.

Applicants believe no fees are due. Nonetheless, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any other fees and/or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-0384 of Baker Botts L.L.P.

Respectfully submitted,

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